



**MEETING OF THE
TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION**

DATE

APRIL 26, 2022

1 Tuesday, April 26, 2022

2 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Good morning, everyone.

3 This meeting is called to order. Ms. Patricio, is there anyone
4 signed up for public comment?

5 MS. PATRICIO: Good morning, commissioners.

6 We have one person signed up for public comment, Melissa Laurel.
7 Ms. Laurel, if you would please unmute the microphone and
8 proceed.

9 MS. PATRICIO: It doesn't look like Ms.

10 Laurel is on this morning.

11 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Thank you very much. Good
12 morning, Ms. Miller.

13 MS. MILLER: Good morning, sir.

14 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Thank you. Mr. Serna, is
15 there an executive director's report today? We should just get
16 Mr. Serna like a handheld microphone, more like a headset, like
17 a TED talk. It would look very professional.

18 MR. SERNA: We have one item, legislative
19 update.

20 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Thank you.

21 MICHAEL BRITT: Good morning, Mr. Chairman,
22 Commissioners, Mr. Serna. For the record, Michael Britt,
23 Governmental Relations. I wanted to update you all real quick.
24 TWC has been requested to testify at several upcoming Texas
25 House and Senate interim hearings. Mr. Serna will be testifying

1 tomorrow, April 27th at one o'clock in the afternoon, before the
2 House Committee on Business and Industry. The committee will be
3 taking up two interim charges at the hearing related to TWC. One
4 is related to operational changes in strategies employed by TWC
5 to improve outcomes related to UI benefits, and another charge
6 related to studying the impacts of the pandemic on unemployment
7 trends and hurdles to workforce reentry and industry-specific
8 disruptions. Then on Tuesday, May 3rd, Bob Gear will be
9 testifying before the Senate Committee on Veteran Affairs. TWC
10 has been requested to testify on the committee's interim charge
11 related to veteran benefits. On Tuesday, May 10th, Chairman
12 Daniel will be testifying before the Senate Committee on Higher
13 Education on the committee's interim charge related to workforce
14 education, and also the committee's monitoring charge related to
15 House Bill 3767 from the 87th Texas Legislature. Finally, on
16 Wednesday, May 11th, Chairman Daniel will also be testifying
17 before the Senate Committee on Water, Agriculture, and Rural
18 Affairs on the committee's interim charge related to rural
19 employment. That concludes my remarks. I'm happy to answer any
20 questions you all have.

21 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Thank you. Any comments or
22 questions?

23 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: None.

24 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: None for me.

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1 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Thank you very much. Mr.
2 Serna, anything else. I do have one thing since I've got you
3 here. You know we've been working—TWC's been working on several
4 fronts to address shortages in the health care industry but I'm
5 starting to hear about the potential for some limitations on our
6 programs that could slow down those efforts. For example,
7 Commissioner Alvarez recently proposed what I think is a really
8 good health care apprenticeship initiative but when we take a
9 look at our rules and other agency policy, we see that a key
10 stakeholder which specifically I'm talking about public sector
11 health care workers, specifically county hospital nurses or
12 something along those lines, they might be unable to participate
13 due to requirements that eligible grantees be private entities.
14 I know of a similar restriction in the Skills Development Fund
15 program. At a commission meeting in the near future, would you
16 please have staff bring back a plan to tell us what those
17 potential limitations may be for these public sector health care
18 workers, and what steps this commission might need to take to
19 eliminate those particular barriers to their participation?

20 MR. SERNA: Yes, sir. We can do that as
21 quickly as possible.

22 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Thank you very much.

23 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Chairman, on that,
24 you're talking about the public sector employers that are out
25 there?

1 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Yes, I am. Specifically
2 I'm worried about so many hospitals are either county- or city-
3 run entities particularly once you get out of the metro areas. I
4 just want to make sure that—I mean the nursing shortage doesn't
5 really care if your employer is private sector or public sector
6 and so I want to make sure we've got all our bases covered.

7 MR. SERNA: We had a small effort just as a
8 way of sharing with the commission, had a small effort about a
9 year ago with Commissioner Alvarez, sort of a pilot, not
10 specifically in health care but just in general skills
11 development in the public sector so we will expand that but then
12 also come back with specific details about what we need to
13 remove those barriers.

14 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Thank you, Mr. Serna. Is
15 there any other order of business to come before the commission?

16 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Chairman, I think
17 that's a great recommendation and so I appreciate that.

18 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Thank you very much.

19 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Especially with the—
20 I'd also like to ask if we could, Ed, if we could—again, I
21 appreciate those comments, chairman, if we could include
22 recommendations for guidelines so the public can participate in
23 this particular agenda item.

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1 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Commissioner
2 Alvarez, you're talking about public input from that standpoint?
3 OK.

4 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: But I like the idea
5 of what the chairman has addressed. Just this morning we were
6 talking about with the Texas state systems is doing in an
7 application to increase the number of nurses in the state by
8 applying for a grant with the Department of Commerce for 70
9 million dollars, and so they're one of 60. There were 500
10 applicants and they're one of the top 60 that are still in the
11 hunt for the money so this recommendation that you made,
12 chairman, is certainly appropriate at this time.

13 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: My only comment is
14 basically Texas is booming. I had an opportunity to be out in
15 Pearland, Abilene, Alvin, Texas, and Texas City, Texas, and
16 activities are just increasing and there's an appetite for the
17 Texas Workforce Commission programs. Our 28 local Workforce
18 Solutions Boards are very, very, very busy out there as is the
19 TWC team so just appreciate all the work and the energy that's
20 out there. It's pretty exciting.

21 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: All right. Do we have a
22 motion to adjourn?

23 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Chairman, I move that
24 we adjourn.

25 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Second.

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CHAIRMAN DANIEL: It's been moved and
seconded to adjourn and we're adjourned.